

2009 Population Estimates for New Jersey by County and Metropolitan Area

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New Jersey's total resident population was 8,707,739 as of July 1, 2009. The net gain of 44,341 residents from a year ago was the 16th largest in the nation. However, its 0.51 percent annual growth rate between 2008 and 2009 was slower than 37 other states. With 1,174 persons per square mile, New Jersey's distinctive status as the nation's most densely populated state remains unchallenged. The "2009 State Population Estimates" article was published on the January 2010 issue of the New Jersey Economic Indicators (pp. 1-3). This article presents data on population changes in New Jersey by county and metropolitan area.

Somerset and Hudson Led the State's Population Growth, 2008-2009

Somerset was the fastest growing county in New Jersey with a 1.1 percent net gain of resident population between 2008 and 2009, followed by Hudson (+1.0%), and Union (+0.9%). Numerically, Hudson County added more residents (+5,800) than any other county in the state during the 2008-2009 period, followed by Middlesex (+5,400) and Bergen (+5,300) counties.

Three counties experienced population declines from 2008 to 2009: Cape May (-0.4% or -400), Sussex (-0.2% or -300), and Warren (-0.2% or -300).

Nationally, St. Bernard Parish, LA was the population growth champion (+7.9%) between 2008 and 2009 among the nation's 2,431 counties with 10,000 or more population. Long County, GA's 7.2 percent growth rate was the second fastest in the nation. Population declined in 1,370 counties between 2008 and 2009. The net loss of 23,200 residents in Wayne County, MI was the most severe.

Ocean County had the Largest Population Gain, 2000-2009

Ocean County led population growth numerically in the state during this decade. The county added 62,800 residents since the 2000 Census. The 2000-2009 population gain was also very substantial in Middlesex (+40,600), and Gloucester (+34,200) counties. However, Ocean County's 12.3 percent rate of growth between 2000 and 2009 was second to Gloucester's 13.4 percent, while Somerset County had the state's third fastest rate of growth (9.9%).

During the 2000-2009 period, Cape May (-6,200 or -6.1%), Essex (-22,700 or -2.9%) and Hudson (-11,100 or -1.8%) counties experienced population declines.

Between 2000 and 2009, Kendall, IL was the nation's fastest growing county with a population gain of 92.1 percent, followed by Pinal County, AZ (+89.7%). Maricopa County, AZ, had the largest numeric increase from 2000 to 2009, adding 950,964 residents. The net gain of 670,399 population in Harris, TX was the nation's second largest.

Table 1

Estimates of Resident Population by County: New Jersey, 2000 to 2009							
Region/County	Census on April 1, 2000	Estimates as of July 1,		Changes: 2008-2009		Changes: 2000-2009	
		2008	2009	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
New Jersey	8,414,360	8,663,398	8,707,739	44,341	0.5%	293,379	3.5%
<i>Northern</i>	3,768,531	3,746,227	3,769,540	23,313	0.6%	1,009	0.0%
Bergen	884,118	889,915	895,250	5,335	0.6%	11,132	1.3%
Essex	792,311	767,075	769,644	2,569	0.3%	-22,667	-2.9%
Hudson	608,975	592,111	597,924	5,813	1.0%	-11,051	-1.8%
Morris	470,212	486,946	488,518	1,572	0.3%	18,306	3.9%
Passaic	490,374	488,364	491,778	3,414	0.7%	1,404	0.3%
Union	522,541	521,816	526,426	4,610	0.9%	3,885	0.7%
<i>Northwestern</i>	246,603	261,328	260,756	-572	-0.2%	14,153	5.7%
Sussex	144,165	151,431	151,118	-313	-0.2%	6,953	4.8%
Warren	102,438	109,897	109,638	-259	-0.2%	7,200	7.0%
<i>Central</i>	1,520,412	1,602,861	1,613,863	11,002	0.7%	93,451	6.1%
Hunterdon	121,989	129,806	130,034	228	0.2%	8,045	6.6%
Mercer	350,761	364,571	366,222	1,651	0.5%	15,461	4.4%
Middlesex	750,172	785,324	790,738	5,414	0.7%	40,566	5.4%
Somerset	297,490	323,160	326,869	3,709	1.2%	29,379	9.9%
<i>Coastal</i>	1,481,090	1,578,605	1,585,586	6,981	0.4%	104,496	7.1%
Atlantic	252,552	270,609	271,712	1,103	0.4%	19,160	7.6%
Cape May	102,326	96,470	96,091	-379	-0.4%	-6,235	-6.1%
Monmouth	615,296	641,864	644,105	2,241	0.4%	28,809	4.7%
Ocean	510,916	569,662	573,678	4,016	0.7%	62,762	12.3%
<i>Southern</i>	1,397,724	1,474,377	1,477,994	3,617	0.3%	80,270	5.7%
Burlington	423,393	445,492	446,108	616	0.1%	22,715	5.4%
Camden	507,914	517,739	517,879	140	0.0%	9,965	2.0%
Cumberland	146,434	156,784	157,745	961	0.6%	11,311	7.7%
Gloucester	255,694	288,168	289,920	1,752	0.6%	34,226	13.4%
Salem	64,289	66,194	66,342	148	0.2%	2,053	3.2%

Source: US Bureau of the Census, Population Division, March 2010

Cape May County Experienced Population Loss Due to Natural Decrease

Cape May was the only county in New Jersey to experience population loss due to natural increment between 2008 and 2009 as the number of deaths exceeded births by 400. From 2000 to 2009, the county had a total natural decrease of about 3,000 persons. In contrast, Essex (+47,500) and Middlesex (+45,600) counties had the most substantial gains due to natural increase (surplus of births over deaths) between 2000 and 2009.

Cape May County was not alone. Among the nation's 3,143 counties, 853 experienced a natural decrease of population between 2000 and 2009, led by Florida's Pinellas County (-25,300) and Sarasota County (-17,200). In contrast, the natural increase of 849,100 in Los Angeles County, CA was the nation's largest.

International Immigration as a Major Source of Population Growth

All 21 counties in New Jersey gained international immigrants between 2008 and 2009. In fact, the population in Camden, Essex, Hudson and Morris counties would have declined were there no influx of foreign immigrants. Population loss due to domestic migration in these four counties (-18,700) was larger than their natural increment (+15,500), but was compensated by their gains from international migration (+14,800).

Table 2

Components of Population Change by County: New Jersey, 2000 to 2009								
Region/ County	Components of Change: 2008 to 2009				Components of Change: 2000 to 2009			
	Births	Deaths	International Migration	Domestic Migration	Births	Deaths	International Migration	Domestic Migration
New Jersey	110,471	71,676	37,360	-31,690	1,038,937	664,523	399,803	-459,803
<i>Northern</i>	48,837	28,482	23,383	-20,522	471,533	274,283	251,734	-430,411
Bergen	9,358	7,019	4,621	-1,562	90,828	66,352	51,267	-59,607
Essex	11,243	6,229	4,419	-7,069	108,429	60,910	46,891	-113,928
Hudson	8,433	3,993	6,371	-5,207	78,249	39,649	68,108	-116,191
Morris	5,333	3,519	1,864	-2,040	54,614	31,579	20,205	-22,056
Passaic	7,345	3,719	3,053	-3,158	70,611	35,861	32,369	-63,369
Union	7,125	4,003	3,055	-1,486	68,802	39,932	32,894	-55,260
<i>Northwestern</i>	2,787	1,930	340	-1,782	27,002	17,417	3,438	2,474
Sussex	1,572	1,018	139	-1,027	15,161	9,231	1,409	396
Warren	1,215	912	201	-755	11,841	8,186	2,029	2,078
<i>Central</i>	20,059	11,417	8,731	-6,054	190,450	104,786	93,941	-76,535
Hunterdon	1,209	830	199	-323	12,239	7,442	2,083	2,014
Mercer	4,602	2,877	1,567	-1,562	42,596	26,783	16,754	-14,840
Middlesex	10,384	5,567	5,503	-4,710	97,004	51,374	59,078	-59,626
Somerset	3,864	2,143	1,462	541	38,612	19,187	16,026	-4,083
<i>Coastal</i>	19,633	16,578	2,873	962	179,667	149,256	30,464	34,616
Atlantic	3,606	2,743	1,070	-841	32,749	24,188	10,810	1,342
Cape May	951	1,292	76	-67	8,935	11,919	567	-3,148
Monmouth	7,163	5,363	1,287	-807	69,361	48,921	14,081	-16,690
Ocean	7,913	7,180	440	2,677	68,622	64,228	5,006	53,112
<i>Southern</i>	19,155	13,269	2,033	-4,294	170,284	118,781	20,226	10,053
Burlington	5,165	3,838	408	-1,038	48,149	33,913	4,394	6,425
Camden	7,159	4,734	969	-3,292	64,312	43,183	9,498	-21,990
Cumberland	2,514	1,492	438	-491	21,247	13,643	4,177	507
Gloucester	3,476	2,495	148	569	29,600	21,517	1,518	23,722
Salem	841	710	70	-42	6,976	6,525	639	1,389
Note: The sum of estimated components of population change may not equal the total numerical change due to a small residual resulted from controlling all counties' estimates to the national total.								
Source: US Bureau of the Census, Population Division, March 2010								

Only three counties (Gloucester, Ocean and Somerset) had a net gain of population from other counties in the US during the most current one-year period. Consequently, eight counties suffered from net population losses due to migration – Burlington, Camden, Essex, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Sussex and Warren – as their gains in international migration were not large enough to offset their losses from domestic migration between 2008 and 2009.

Hudson County had the state's largest influx of international immigrants (+68,100) from 2000 to 2009, but also experienced the most substantial loss due to domestic migration (-113,900). Middlesex, Bergen and Essex counties also had considerable gains in international migration, so far in this decade, while Ocean County had the most substantial gain due to domestic migration (+53,100), among the state's 21 counties.

Nationally, the counties of Los Angeles, CA (+651,200) and Miami-Dade, FL (+328,700) gained the largest number of immigrants from abroad between 2000 and 2009. Onslow County, NC had the most substantial loss due to international immigration (-4,600). The international outflow of population was greater than inflow in 201 counties during the 2000-2009 period.

Maricopa County, AZ had the largest net gain of domestic migration (+416,500) between 2000 and 2009, followed by Riverside County, CA (+384,100). The majority (1,818) of the nation's 3,143 counties lost population to other counties due to migration between 2000 and 2009. The most severe net loss was found in Los Angeles County, CA (-1,125,800).

Bergen Still the Most Populous County in New Jersey

Bergen continued to be the most populous county in New Jersey. Its population size of 895,250 ranked 55th among the nation's 3,143 counties in 2009. Three other New Jersey counties were also on the nation's 100 largest counties list: Middlesex (70th), Essex (73rd) and Monmouth (93rd).

Salem County remained the state's least populous county with just over 66,300 residents as of 2009. Due to a gradual population decline so far in this decade, Cape May County saw its population fall below the 100,000 level after 2003. The ranking of county population size in New Jersey remained unchanged from 2008 to 2009. However, Middlesex County replaced Essex as the state's second most populous county in 2006, while Union and Ocean counties swapped their 6th and 7th places in 2002. Sussex briefly surpassed Cumberland in 2002, 2003 and 2004, but their population rankings have reverted back to 17th and 16th, respectively, since 2005.

With more than 9.8 million population, Los Angeles, CA continued to be the nation's largest county. There were 40 other counties with at least one million residents, as of July 1, 2009. Loving, TX (population: 45) was the smallest county in the nation. Kalawao, HI (population: 83) was the only other county with less than 100 residents.

Population Little Changed in the State's Northern Region

Population in the state's industrialized Northern Region (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic and Union counties) was flat (net gain of 1,000 residents) between 2000 and 2009 as the substantial population losses in Essex and Hudson counties were offset by population gains in the other four counties. Morris (+3.9%) was the only county in the region to experience a

higher-than-state-average growth rate (+3.5%). The region's population turned around recently from a gradual decline between 2002 and 2007.

Nearly two-thirds (63%) of the 399,800 foreign immigrants who arrived in New Jersey during the 2000-2009 period settled in these six urban counties. However, every county in the region experienced a substantial loss of residents due to domestic migration. Together, the region lost 459,800 residents to other counties in the nation, resulting in a net population loss of 178,700 due to geographic mobility between 2000 and 2009. The loss was largely compensated for by the region's net gain in natural increase (surplus of births over deaths). Essex (+47,500), Hudson (+38,600) and Passaic (+34,700) counties had the state's first, third and fourth largest natural increases, respectively, during the 2000-2009 period, due partly to a high concentration of new immigrants and minority groups in these counties.

Growth Slowed in Northwest Region

Population growth in the state's two Northwestern rural counties (Sussex and Warren) lost its steam after 2008, with a -0.2 percent decline between 2008 and 2009, for the first time since 1920. The region's 2000-2009 population growth rate (5.7%) was still higher than the state average, but lagged behind all other regions except the northern region. These two counties gained population from both the net migration (3,400 international immigrants and 2,500 domestic migrants) and natural increase (9,600) between 2000 and 2009. Their share of the state's total population has increased somewhat from 2.9 percent in 2000 to 3.0 percent in 2009.

Substantial Population Growth in Central Jersey

The Central Jersey Region (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset counties) had a numeric population gain of 93,500 from 2000 to 2009. These four counties accounted for 32.0 percent of the state's total numerical gains since the 2000 Census. The major sources of the region's 2000-2009 growth were net gains in international migration (93,900) and natural increase (approximately 85,700 more births than deaths).

With the exception of Hunterdon, the counties in the region experienced net losses in domestic migration so far in this decade. However, these losses were more than offset by their hefty gains in international migration.

Coastal Counties Were the State's Population Magnet

The four counties along New Jersey's Atlantic coast – Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth and Ocean – had the largest population growth (+104,500) and highest growth rate (+7.1%) in New Jersey from 2000 to 2009. The region attracted more migrants (34,600 from domestic migration and 30,500 from international immigration) than any other region in the state. This region alone accounted for 36.0 percent of the state's total numerical population increase between 2000 and 2009. Natural increase (+30,400) was relatively moderate in the region due to the high proportion of elderly residents in Cape May and Ocean counties.

Population Growth Accelerated in the Southern Region

The four New Jersey counties that are part of the Philadelphia Metropolitan Area (Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Salem) plus their southern neighbor – Cumberland County – had a below-average population growth rate during the 1990s. The annual growth rate was higher in the region than in the state as a whole between 2000 and 2007, but had fallen below average after 2007. The region's 5.7 percent growth between 2000 and 2009 was still faster than the statewide average (+3.5%), due largely to hefty growth in Gloucester (+13.4%) and Cumberland (+7.7%) counties.

In addition to natural increment (+51,500), the region's net gain from migration (+30,300) was also substantial. Camden was the only county in the region to experience population loss from migration as its loss in domestic migration (-22,000) was more substantial than its gain in international immigration (+9,500).

Seven Metropolitan Areas Encompass New Jersey Counties

According to the US Census Bureau, *"The United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas according to published standards that are applied to Census Bureau data. The general concept of a metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area is that of a core area containing a substantial population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. Each metropolitan statistical area must have at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more inhabitants. Each micropolitan statistical area must have at least one urban cluster of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000 population."*

New Jersey was the nation's first state to become 100 percent metropolitan in 1980. The state's 21 counties were part of seven metropolitan areas as of 2009. There is no micropolitan area in New Jersey.

The 257.4 million people resided in the nation's 366 metropolitan areas accounted for 83.8 percent of the total US population as of 2009, up from 82.8 percent in 2000. The Northeast Region had the highest proportion (90.4%) while the Midwest Region had the lowest percentage (77.4%) of their population residing within the boundary of metropolitan areas. However, metropolitan population grew the slowest in the Northeast Region (3.4% between 2000 and 2009), while the South Region had the fastest growth (15.4%) in metropolitan population.

Based on the 2009 estimates, the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Metropolitan Area had the highest rate of population growth (+10.2%) among the seven metropolitan areas that encompass New Jersey counties. The area includes Warren County and three other Pennsylvania counties. It gained population mainly from domestic migration (+46,300) from 2000 to 2009.

The Vineland-Millville-Bridgeton Metropolitan Area (encompasses only Cumberland County) was the second fastest growing area (7.7% from 2000 to 2009), followed by the Atlantic City-Hammonton Metropolitan Area (consists solely of Atlantic County). Population in this area grew by 7.6 percent between 2000 and 2009.

The Trenton-Ewing Metropolitan Area consisting of Mercer County only, had a moderate gain of population (+4.4%) from 2000 to 2009. The Ocean City Metropolitan Area (com-

prised of Cape May County) was the only area in New Jersey to experience a population decline (-6.1%) due to more deaths than births and more losses to domestic migration than gains from international migration.

Table 3

Estimates of Population and Components of Change by Metropolitan Area/Division: New Jersey, 2000 to 2009

Name of Metropolitan Area/Division	Census 2000	Estimates 2009	Population Change: 2000-2009		Components of Change: 2000-2009		
			Number	Percent	Natural Increment	International Migration	Domestic Migration
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ Metro Area	740,400	816,012	75,612	10.2%	15,804	16,181	46,349
Atlantic City, NJ Metro Area	252,547	271,712	19,165	7.6%	8,561	10,810	1,342
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area	18,323,439	19,069,796	746,357	4.1%	1,067,418	1,116,151	-1,962,055
Edison-New Brunswick, NJ Metro Division	2,173,876	2,335,390	161,514	7.4%	89,889	94,191	-27,287
Newark-Union, NJ-PA Metro Division	2,097,523	2,126,269	28,746	1.4%	110,550	103,660	-175,130
New York-White Plains-Wayne, NY-NJ Metro Division	11,298,122	11,732,233	434,111	3.8%	751,250	858,359	-1,603,399
Ocean City, NJ Metro Area	102,326	96,091	-6,235	-6.1%	-2,984	567	-3,148
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area	5,687,158	5,968,252	281,094	4.9%	207,749	127,055	-115,890
Camden, NJ Metro Division	1,187,012	1,253,907	66,895	5.6%	43,448	15,410	8,157
Wilmington, DE-MD-NJ Metro Division	650,508	701,772	51,264	7.9%	32,905	16,302	6,434
Trenton-Ewing, NJ Metro Area	350,761	366,222	15,461	4.4%	15,813	16,754	-14,840
Vineland-Millville-Bridgeton, NJ Metro Area	146,442	157,745	11,303	7.7%	7,604	4,177	507

Note: The US Office of Management and Budget's statistical area definitions (for metropolitan, micropolitan and combined statistical areas, as well as metropolitan divisions) are those issued by that agency in November 2008.

The sum of estimated components of population change may not equal the total numerical change due to a small residual resulted from controlling all counties' estimates to the national total.

Source: US Bureau of the Census, Population Division, March 2010

The Nation's Largest Metropolitan Area Includes 12 New Jersey Counties

The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island Metropolitan Area was the nation's largest metro area, with 19.1 million residents (up 4.1% from 18.3 million in 2000). The area includes four metropolitan divisions – three of them comprise numerous New Jersey counties. Its largest division – New York-White Plains-Wayne Metropolitan Division (contains New Jersey's Bergen, Hudson and Passaic counties and eight other New York State counties) had more than 11.7 million residents as of 2009. The division's population increased a moderate 3.8% between 2000 and 2009, due to its substantial loss in domestic migration. The Edison-New Brunswick Metropolitan Division (constituted of four New Jersey counties – Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Somerset) grew faster than any other divisions in the area (7.4% from 2000 to 2009). The Newark-Union Metropolitan Division contains the highest number (five) of New Jersey counties (Essex, Hunterdon, Morris, Sussex and Union). Population grew slowly in this division (1.4% since the 2000 Census) due to its net loss in migration as out-migration to other counties outpaced the influx of immigrants.

Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA was the only other metropolitan area with more than 10 million population as of 2009. The population size of the nation's smallest metropolitan area — Carson City, NV was just 55,200.

Population Grew Fast in South Jersey's Two Metropolitan Areas

With a population of more than 5.9 million, the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington Metropolitan Area was the nation's fifth largest area, as of 2009. Two of the area's three divisions encompass New Jersey counties: the Camden Metropolitan Division is an aggregate of three counties – Burlington, Camden and Gloucester; the Wilmington Metropolitan Division includes New Jersey's Salem County, a county in Delaware and another one in Maryland. Population in both divisions grew substantially from 2000 to 2009 (+5.6% and +7.9%, respectively) due to their gains from natural increment as well as both domestic and international migrations.

Data Availability

The 2009 county and metropolitan area population estimates for New Jersey, including components of change, are available online at the Office of Labor Planning and Analysis' web site (http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lpa/dmograph/est/est_index.html). For more information regarding population estimates for New Jersey, contact the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research, P. O. Box 388, Trenton, NJ 08625-0388, telephone 609-292-0076, e-mail: sywu@dol.state.nj.us.